and in the Ophthalmic Hospital, Trivandrum. In accordance with the sanctioned programme, ten new *vaidyasalas* were opened in 1101. The publication of ancient manuscripts on Ayurveda was commenced.

33. Rural Sanitation.—The proposal of the Sanitary Commissioner to make vaccination compulsory in non-municipal areas is engaging the attention of the Government. With a view to improving the sanitary condition of rural areas, 16 new conservancy stations were opened from the beginning of the current year. A revised scheme for the sinking of wells in rural areas, under which the Sanitary Department is to be invested with the necessary funds, is under examination. In the case of wells for Sambavar villages, the Government have undertaken to bear the whole expenditure where the people are too poor to pay any contribution.

34. Education.—The total number of recognised educational institutions under the control of the Education Department at the end of 1101 was 3,509 and the strength in them, 4,80,986, denoting an increase of fifty institutions and nearly ten thousand pupils. Except one *pakuthi* in the Peermade taluk and seven *pakuthies* in the thinly populated Devicolam taluk, each *pakuthi* has at least one recognised school. There were, besides, 18 instructional institutions under other departments, with a total strength of 1,359. Including the expenditure on *quasi*-educational institutions and the outlay on educational buildings, the aggregate gross expenditure from general revenues on education was Rs. 40,39,328 which forms 22·08 per cent. of the total expenditure of the State and works out at Re. -1-0-4 per head of the population. In pursuance of a resolution moved in the Legislative Council, the Government appointed a mixed committee of officials and non-officials to consider the question of revising the pay of vernacular school teachers. The committee is at work. The new College Hostel was opened during the current year and admission to it is allowed to all students irrespective of caste or creed. As a further concession to pupils belonging to the depressed classes, poor and deserving pupils from those communities are, experimentally for a period of five years, being exempted from the payment of examination fees. Application has been made to the University of Madras for the affiliation of the Women's College in Branches V and VI of the B. A. course and in Group II (Natural Science) in the Intermediate course. This will relieve to some extent the congestion in the Arts and the Science colleges by the withdrawal to an institution of their own, where better facilities for games and social life are available, of the large number of girls now in those institutions. The provision of noonday meals to the poor pupils attending schools situated at a distance from their homes is engaging the attention of the Government; and they feel that in a matter like this they will not appeal in vain to the generosity of the public to whom an excellent example has been set by Mr. T. Padmanabha Rao who has endowed property of over Rs. 30,000 for the grant of noonday meals in the Sri Mula Vilasam High School, Trivandrum.

35. Unemployment.—At the April meeting of the Legislative Council a resolution was moved recommending, in view of the increase in the number of the unemployed in the State, the appointment of a committee to enquire into and report on measures to remedy the evil. The Government accepted the resolution and have accordingly appointed a committee, with a majority of non-officials elected by the Council. The committee has begun work and has circulated a questionnaire.

36. Devolution of Authority.—The proposals made by the special officer for the devolution of administrative powers have been examined by the Government and orders enhancing the powers of appointment, transfer, etc., have already been issued in respect of 16 departments. The question of similar devolution in other departments is under the consideration of the Government.

37. Conclusion.—Now I come to what is to me the pleasantest part of my Address. I make public acknowledgment of my deep obligation to Her Highness the Maharani Regent. If, beset by many trials and burdened with many anxieties, I have been able to carry on the administration justly and dutifully, and in some measure to your satisfaction, it is to Her Highness that I owe it all. The millions of her subjects little know how much they owe to her unerring judgment and her calm courage. Nothing can go wrong with the administration of this country, nothing can be done to the detriment of its peoples, while such a Great Heart, such a Serene Soul, guides its destinies. Let our thank-offering to Her Highness be unmeasured loyalty, unshaken trustfulness, abiding gratitude.

The Assembly adjourned at 12-45 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. on Tuesday, the 22nd February, 1927.

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